Track: Institutional Reforms for an Entrepreneurial Society

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Track Chair
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Description of the track

In the book *Entrepreneurial Society* by David Audretsch (2007) it was argued that the US has been pushed out of its model of the managed economy towards a more entrepreneurial society over the past decades. Competition from Europe and East Asia forced the US to reinvent itself. To continue operating at the global technology frontier, the US developed a new model in which entrepreneurs play a key role and the economy might return to the Schumpeter (1911) Mark I model of capitalism in which small scale experimentation and quick scaling of successful innovations is the source of economic growth and prosperity. At the turn of the century, however, Europe also starts to feel the pressure. Competition from China and other emerging economies challenge the status quo. Can Europe make the transition to a more Entrepreneurial Society as well? As Baumol (1996) argued, it is not differences in the supply of entrepreneurial talent that explain differences in economic performance, but rather differences in institutions that determine whether entrepreneurs will put their talents to productive use. So, to become more entrepreneurial, institutional reform is needed. But reforming institutions is not an easy task. Europe, in all its diversity, has inherited a lot of deeply embedded institutions from a successful past and now faces the challenge of reforming them. Moreover, institutions form a complex, multilayered system of complementary rules, regulations, customs and norms. Simply copying some of Silicon Valley’s more obvious characteristics, like its large venture capital markets or flexible labor market institutions, is unlikely to work in the same way in the European context.

The Horizon2020 Project Financial and Institutional Reforms for the Entrepreneurial Society (FIRES) (www.projectfires.eu, Elert et al. 2019 and Sanders et al. 2020) developed an approach to formulating reform strategies to make Europe more entrepreneurial. It thereby focuses on three broad sets of institutions that govern the flow of knowledge, labor and financial resources to entrepreneurial venturing in Europe. Of course, a reform strategy requires sound empirical and conceptual science. In this track, we invite scholars to contribute to the scientific foundations of this
endeavor and submit research papers of ongoing research that establish the empirical and conceptual links between institutions, entrepreneurship and economic performance.

**Key topics and research questions of the track**

- Establishing the need for and/or desirability of a transition to a more Entrepreneurial Society in Europe.
- The impact of labor market institutions on the willingness of talented people to work in innovative, young, small and medium sized enterprises.
- The interaction of intellectual property rights, public R&D and academic research, knowledge institutions and other institutions affecting the knowledge flows in the economy with entrepreneurial venturing.
- The impact of financial regulation, bank- and financial market institutions and institutional investors on the availability and flow of funds to experimental, high risk, small and medium sized start-ups and enterprises.
- Historical evolution of labor, knowledge and financial institutions and their level of cultural and historical embeddedness in Europe.
- Complex interdependencies between sets of labor, knowledge and financial institutions affecting entrepreneurship in the Europe.
- Reform proposals and ideas that go beyond the usual entrepreneurship policy instruments: education, subsidies and tax cuts, building networks and reducing red tape.

We encourage theoretical and empirical research papers that extend and develop our understanding how entrepreneurial activity is founded in and fundamentally changes society and institutions. We welcome research that uses a variety of empirical methods and encourage interdisciplinary research that applies new perspectives on the transformative character of entrepreneurial venturing.

**References**


**The deadline for submissions is June 1st, 2020.**

All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.

Download the submission template [here](#)

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The registration for the conference is open until July 31st, 2020.

Register [here](#)